

# REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

### Week ending the 20th January 1900.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Referring to the rumour that Russia has sent troops from Tiflis *via* Baku and Krosnovodsk to Khusk, the *Basumati*

*BASUMATI*,  
Jan. 11th, 1900.

The rumoured Russian advance towards Afghanistan.

[Calcutta] of 11th January writes as follows:—

The situation is indeed critical. We now see that our fear is not groundless. The swallowing of Central Asia by Russia has become inevitable. Russia never disgorges what she once swallows. The British Government ought to put an end to the Russian scare, and thus remove the anxiety that dwells on this score in the Indian mind. The independence of Afghanistan cannot be maintained if the Russians occupy Khusk or Herat. We can say without any hesitation that the Pathans of the Afghan frontier are attached more to the Russians than to the English. The Russians are a wily and artful people, who well know the art of winning the Pathans over to their side. If they can once occupy Herat and extend their dominion to the very foot of the Pamirs, Lord Lytton's "scientific frontier" will melt into thin air, and life and money lost in the maintenance of that frontier for the last 20 years will have gone for nothing. If the news be true, it will be absolutely necessary for the English to occupy Kandahar. We do not care for the consequences of this occupation, for the 20 crores of British subjects will ever remain loyal to the British. It is true that we often say many things against the English Government in a pet when our feelings are wounded, but all that is not spoken from the heart; it is only a superficial expression of wounded feeling. We look upon any danger of the British Government as our own danger. It is our interest, and it will conduce to our welfare, to help the English at all hazards. The Indian princes will never fail in this duty. As for the poor Bengalis, their very existence, so to say, is closely intertwined with that of the British. We shall never fail to help the English to the best of our power. We therefore earnestly pray the English not to distrust us and contemptuously ignore what we say.

2. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th January has the following:—

*SANJIVANI*,  
Jan. 11th, 1900.

President Krüger's self-denial. President Krüger draws an annual salary of one lakh and five thousand rupees. But owing to the war the officials of the Republic, including Mr. Krüger, have reduced their own salaries, and Mr. Krüger now draws only Rs. 15,000 a year. We do not see such self-denial among the ministers in England. They are now drawing the same salary which they used to draw before the war, and subscriptions are being raised from high and low in the British Empire in order to defray the cost of the war. Cannot the ministers set an example by reducing their own salaries?

3. The same paper has the following:—

*SANJIVANI*.

The Indian princes and the Transvaal war.

The Indian princes think that they are among the most loyal people of India, and they therefore offered to go to the Transvaal war to fight the Boers, the enemies of the English. But though the Boers are enemies, still they are white men, and our rulers have therefore refused to accept the services of the Indian princes, being unwilling to employ black men in killing white men. The Government has scruples in sending black men to the seat of war, but it has no such scruple in accepting black men's horses and money for conducting the war. The loyalty of the Indian princes is so sincere that they have taken no offence at this, and are helping the English with money, horses, and mules. The Indians are sorry because they have been refused an opportunity of showing their loyalty to the British by going to Africa to fight for them.

4. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 13th January has the following:—

*BANGABANDHU*,  
Jan. 13th, 1900.

English feeling in the Transvaal war.

The English press is giving out that the English public have calmly and coolly borne the British reverses in South Africa. But is this true? Is not the true state of things being concealed? We do not believe the English press, and are of opinion that the British reverses in the Transvaal war have caused great agitation and excitement in England. We also think that the British public and the British statesmen have lost their head over the reverses. Otherwise why should old and useless guns be despatched to South Africa along with war materials, or



why should the War Secretary and the Commander-in-Chief fall out with each other? Why, again, should English commanders strongly criticise the conduct of the War Office after Colonel Long surrendered eleven guns to the enemy? Why should people question even Lord Wolseley's experience and ability? Why, in short, should there be so much wrangling among the English statesmen? Does not all this show that England has not been able to bear her reverses calmly?

A few days ago Colonel Baden-Powell made a sortie against the Boers, but was beaten back with great loss. Military critics are calling this unsuccessful sortie "a useless piece of bravado." We, however, think otherwise. A month ago it was said that the Mafeking garrison had rations only for a month. By this time they must have been reduced to utter destitution. Colonel Baden-Powell is remarkably a man of soldierly instincts, and he thought that it was better that some of his troops should die fighting than that they should die from starvation. He knew that the Boer position was almost invulnerable, and that he still made the sortie shows that he intended to have his garrison reduced.

The English public do not like to give out that Mafeking has been reduced to sore straits, and the English critics, therefore, call Colonel Baden-Powell's conduct "a useless piece of bravado."

5. The same paper writes as follows:—

The German attitude in the Transvaal war.

The French are barbarous and they have foully abused the Queen. This is the strain in which the English public wrote and spoke when the French press criticised England's conduct in the Transvaal war. Mr. Chamberlain even went the length of threatening France, and the Anglo-Indian press took up the cue. Some new-born Bengali papers of Calcutta also followed the example of the Anglo-Indian papers. But we ask all these people to read the writings of the German press, which is publishing obscene cartoons and articles regarding the Queen. But this is not all. Germany is secretly helping the Boers with arms and troops. Let the British Government now enquire whether Germany is a true or a false friend of England. The German Emperor went to England to humour his grandmother, but he is at the same time trying to ruin her Government. Do not place all the blame on France's shoulders.

6. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th January has the following:—

Indian troops in the Boer war.

Why is this so? Why have not the native troops of India been employed in the Transvaal war?

We have no doubt serious cause for complaint. The stalwart Sikh, the short thickset Gurkha with the strength of a giant, the fierce and fiery Puruvia, in fact, native soldiers of all ranks and classes are sitting idle. Could there be anything more regrettable than this? Could there be anything more undesirable than that they should not be allowed to take part in this great war? Native troops have always fought side by side with British troops, and it is a great disappointment to them that they have not been allowed to share with their British comrades the glories of the war. The native troops of India have fought side by side and shoulder to shoulder with British troops in Tirah and Afghanistan, Burma, and China, and Egypt. But now they have been compelled to sit idle and inactive. Is not this likely to wound our heart?

We do not know why Indian troops have been ostracised in this way, and are being treated with that indifference and suspicion with which a woman treats the children of a co-wife? Are Indian troops weak? Are they not efficiently trained in warfare? It cannot be said that the Government questions the courage and efficiency of the native soldiers. Their courage and bravery have often and again been praised by the English.

Why have not, then, native troops been sent to South Africa? Here is the answer. The Transvaal war is a war between two white Christian nations, and, under the terms of the Berlin Treaty, native troops cannot be employed in a war between two white peoples. During the Russo-Turkish war, Lord Beaconsfield had eight thousand Indian troops placed in Malta. Russia objected to this, and it was through the instrumentality of Russian plenipotentiaries that a clause was entered in the Berlin Treaty preventing the employment of native troops in a purely European war. But in our opinion such

BANGABANDHU,  
Jan. 13th, 1900.

BANGAVASI,  
Jan. 13th, 1900.



terms need not be obeyed. They cannot be obeyed in a war in Asia or Africa. If Russia ever invades India, will native troops be even then prevented from fighting the enemy? If Indian troops are not to be allowed to drive off the Russian hordes on the occasion of a Russia invasion of India, what is the use of maintaining such a large native army?

But it is not likely that the Indian troops have not been allowed to go to the front simply because black soldiers are not to be allowed to shoot white soldiers. There must be something more at the bottom.

It is said by some wiseacres that if native troops are employed in the Boer war, and if they succeed in defeating the Boers, their audacity and presumption will increase. Nothing could be more foolish or erroneous than this surmise. The Indian troops have fought even Native Chiefs on the side of the British Government. They have fought the French and the Dutch, the Chinese, the Abyssinians and the Dervishes; they are always ready to fight the Russians. Their loyalty has been tried in many a field and on many an occasion. It is extremely ridiculous that success in the Boer war will make them insolent.

The argument that the employment of Indian troops in the Transvaal war will embolden the native tribes of Africa and shake their confidence in European Powers is also baseless. It is true that the natives are ten times as numerous as the Europeans in South Africa, but it is foolish to argue that the success of Indian troops in defeating the Boers will so far embolden them as to induce them to rise against all Europeans. Mere numerical superiority is not strength. A single lion is more than a match for a whole host of hares.

But another insinuation has been made. It is said that no civilised people can bear the sight of civilised Europeans being killed by uncivilised natives. The deliberate employment of native troops against Europeans is therefore an eyesore to the European nations. This is why neither the English nor the Boers have allowed friendly natives to fight their enemy. We do not know how far this statement is correct, but we hear that an African Chief is helping the English with 1,200 soldiers.

The tear comes to our eye to see Indians compared to the Zulus and Basutos of Africa. The Zulus and Basutos are uncivilised, and they are not, therefore, allowed to fight the Boers. For the same reason the natives of India cannot be allowed to fight the Boers. The Zulus and Basutos are black and uncivilised. The Sikhs and Gurkhas are also black and uncivilised. Like the Zulus and Basutos, they too should not be allowed to fight the Boers. What could be more regrettable than this comparison?

But how do you dare call the Indians uncivilised? Is India uncivilised, whose *Vedas* and *Darsanas* are the wonder and admiration of the world, which has produced epics like the *Ramayan* and the *Mahabharat*, codes of law like those of Manu, and poets like Kulidas and Bhavabhuti, heroes like Bhishma and Arjun, women like Sita, Savitri, and Damayanti, and statesmen like Man Singh and Todar Mull?

Is there a Judge like Dwaraka Nath Mitra or Rames Chandra Mitter among the Zulus and Basutos? Show us a Gurudas or a Pratab Chandra among them, and we shall pay you a hundred sovereigns. Show us a scientist like Mr. J. C. Bose, or a talented man like Mr. T. N. Mukharji among the native Africans. Complexion is not the standard of civilisation. Civilisation consists not in complexion, but in the excellence of the soul and the heart. The Bombay mango is black, but cut it and you see it all gorgeous red within. We therefore humbly pray that native troops be allowed to go to the front.

7. The same paper is glad that the British ministry are expressing their satisfaction at the loyalty of the Indian Chiefs and their readiness to help the Government with horses and troops. Indian loyalty has no doubt gratified,

The expression of Indian loyalty in the Transvaal war.

but has not surprised the Queen-Empress, for she has been witnessing Indian loyalty for the last eighty years. Mr. Balfour, in his Manchester speech, expressed his gratification at the loyalty of the Indian Chiefs. But he ought not to have forgotten to mention that the Indian people as a body are sincerely praying for British victory, and expressing their willingness to help the Government in its difficulty.

BANGAVASI,  
Jan. 18th, 1900.



DACCA PRAKASH,  
Jan. 14th, 1900.

8. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 14th January has the following:—

The Transvaal war.

It is strange that British troops should so often surrender to the enemy. A hero will sooner die than surrender. It is, therefore, a great discredit to the British troops that they should surrender so often. Nothing could be more erroneous than the statement that the Boers are showing highmindedness by well treating their prisoners. They have a motive in treating their prisoners well. If the British troops knew that they would be badly treated by the Boers when captured, they would not surrender, but would fight to the last drop of their blood. If they knew that the Boers would kill their prisoners, they would prefer to die fighting and rush to the cannon's mouth.

Some of our contemporaries are advising the Government to send native troops to the Transvaal. They are making a great mistake. The native troops are no doubt brave and fearless and are sure to conquer the Boers. But their presence in South Africa will give rise to a serious political complication. If the natives of Africa, who have remained neutral in this war, see the native troops of India defeating the Boers, they will most likely take up arms against the English. These natives number about a crore and are warlike. They know that the Europeans are many in number, and the British and the Boers would co-operate against them if they revolted against either. If they see the native troops of India defeating the Boers, they will think that the English could not defeat them unaided. This will encourage them and lead them to rebel against the English. This is why Indian troops have not been sent to South Africa. Another reason is that by the Berlin Treaty the employment of native troops against Europeans is forbidden.

HABLUL MATEEN,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

9. The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 15th January has the following:—

The European Powers in the Boer war.

If the Boer war lasts long, the political atmosphere of Europe will assume a different aspect. From the movement of the Russian troops towards the Afghan frontiers, it may be suspected that Russia intends to invade India and Afghanistan, although the Czar himself says that Russia is not such a great coward as to wage war with England when she is already handicapped in South Africa. Even if it is taken for granted that Russia does not intend to invade India, it cannot be said that the movement of her troops is without any political motive. Again, arms and ammunition and German troops have been found in a German steamer, which was captured by an English man-of-war off the South African Coast. This may naturally lead one to conclude that Germany is secretly helping the Boers. The Kaiser's telegram to the Transvaal thanking the Boers after the capture of Dr. Jameson indicated that Germany had sympathy with the Boers, and this suspicion has been confirmed by the Kaiser's proposal to increase Germany's naval power. Although this proposed increase does not mean that Germany is going to make war with England, still it will to some extent help the Boers, because England will have to keep in reserve some portion of the resources which she could have otherwise applied in South Africa. There is, however, no European Power who is not in favour of either the English or the Boers. Each of the powers intends to profit by the Boer war. Those who are in favour of the Boers, being unable to lend them material help, are trying to help them with military strategists and tacticians. It is certain that if England brings all her resources to bear against the Boers, they will in a very short time be defeated. But the conduct of Russia and Germany has greatly perplexed her.

HABLUL MATEEN.

10. The same paper says that Natal being the scene of war, the Boers are deriving the following strategical advantages:—

The Boer war.

- (1). Natal is not far off both from the Free State and the Transvaal.
- (2). The Boers can go back to their country if they are defeated, and they can also easily check the march of their enemy by blocking the narrow defiles through which an invading army shall have to pass.
- (3). The Boers presupposed that it would be very difficult for them to send troops from Natal to the southern and western boundaries of their country if they were invested by the enemy, and that it would be better to try their luck in Natal. Besides, Natal being a hilly country, is more advantageous to natives than to foreigners.



(4). If the Boers succeed in their present attempt, they are sure to conquer Natal before succour can come from England.

From the movement of the Boers, it appears that they intend to inflict a crushing defeat upon England at Ladysmith or Kimberley before the arrival of Sirdar Kitchener and Lord Roberts.

11. The same paper writes as follows:—

The political outlook in Persia.

Persia has two powerful neighbours, the English and the Turks. The Turks, after their victory over the Greeks, increased their troops and constructed strong forts on the Persian frontiers. Though up to this time we have received no injury from Turkey, we fear that when she will have gained full strength she is sure to act against Persia. When the Turks will occupy such Persian coast towns as Shutul-Arab, Mahmarah, and Arabistan, and win over the nobles of those places to their side, we will be put to great difficulty. The Turks have permitted the Germans to construct a railway to Bagdad. When the construction of this railway will be finished, the Germans also will demand concessions from Persia. There will consequently arise a great obstruction to indigenous Persian trade, and European merchants will make Mahmarah the centre of commerce. The European Powers do not seem to respect the treaties they make with other countries, and they do not hesitate to do anything and everything to gain their object. We should therefore take timely precaution against such a state of things coming about. We should do three things. In the first place, men-of-war, well officered, should be posted to keep a sharp eye upon European men-of-war. In the next place, strong forts should be constructed in the island of Harmaza, and they should be garrisoned with some 15,000 trained soldiers with new guns and war materials. In the third place, a strong Governor should be appointed and posted in Mahmarah.

HABUL MATEEN,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

12. The same paper says:—

The rumoured visit of the Viceroy to the Amir.

According to some English papers, Lord Curzon has obtained permission from home to pay a visit to the Amir. During his Asian tour before he came out as Viceroy, Lord Curzon had been a guest of the Amir, and at the time of his departure the Amir expressed a wish to see him again as the Viceroy of India. The Amir's wish is going to be fulfilled. If the news be true, most important business will, no doubt, be transacted by Lord Curzon. He is one of the foremost of English politicians.

HABUL MATEEN.

13. The same paper says:—

Indians in South Africa.

There are many Indian traders and coolies in Natal, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The Boers hate them on account of their being British subjects. The British ministry objected to this, and managed to somewhat check the Boer ill-treatment of Indians. Now as a war between England and the Transvaal has broken out, the Indian traders and coolies have been expelled and are in a very miserable condition. Many of them are in great distress in the African sea-ports, and not a few have come back to India.

HABUL MATEEN.

14. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 15th January has the following:—

The rumoured Russian advance on Herat.

Central Asia is now entirely in the hands of the Russians. Turkestan was once a powerful kingdom, but now it is under Russia. Caucasus was also once a Muhammadan kingdom, but it is now a Russian province. Russia has now come in contact with Herat, and, at the instigation of the Russian press, the Russians may one day dare to invade India. But we need not fear anything. India is ready to meet Russia on the battlefield.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

It is said that Russia has a formidable army, consisting of 80 lakhs of troops, but India's fighting strength is also formidable. It is a pity, however, that since the time of the mutiny the swords of many brave Indians are becoming rusty from want of use. The Arms Act has deprived many warlike people of the use of arms.

15. With reference to the expression of disloyalty by some Irishmen, the same paper writes that it is a matter of great regret that the Irish should feel glad at English

Irish disloyalty.

BHARAT MITRA.



misfortunes in South Africa. Had they not been brethren of the English, the Indians would have cursed them a thousand times.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a)—Police.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
Jan. 8th, 1900.

16. The *Tripura Hitaiishi* [Comilla] of the 8th January has the following:—

The town chaukidars in Comilla.

Formerly the constables had to do patrol duty at night in Comilla town, but the practice has been changed, and chaukidars have been appointed to do the duty, and their pay has been increased from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6. But the chaukidars do not do their duty properly. Thefts are committed at night in the town, but we have never heard of a thief being arrested by these chaukidars. They are local men, and many of the thieves are even related to them. How are, then, the thieves to be detected? It is said that the chaukidars have a secret understanding with the thieves and get a share of the stolen property. The number of chaukidars is also very small, and a single man has to keep watch over a large area, consequently they cannot perform their duty satisfactorily. The number of chaukidars ought to be increased, and Hindustanis ought to be appointed in the place of these local men.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Jan. 10th, 1900.

17. A correspondent writes the following in the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-*

The Sub-Inspector of the  
Kisoriganj police-station, district  
Bhagalpur.

*Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th January:—

There lives a poor man named Gopal Poddar in a village within the Madhipura Sub-Division of the Bhagalpur District. One evening a man sent by Maharaja Syam Sundar came to him and wanted to know where he had kept the *lota* full of money, which had been given to him by one Mussammat Tetri. Gopal said that he knew nothing of the matter. The man went away, and some time after some men sent by Syam Sundar came to him again and, after tying his hands and feet, beat him with a shoe. Gopal's son was also asked about the money, but he also denied all knowledge of it. On this he, too, was subjected to so much torture that he was at last obliged to say that his father had kept the money with his uncle. But the uncle, when asked, denied all knowledge of it. Father and son were then again subjected to severer torture. But this was not all. By Syam Sundar's order three men committed rape on Gopal's wife, and snatched from her body all the ornaments she had. It is said that the Sub-Inspector of the Kisoriganj police-station, a constable and a chaukidar were also implicated in the affair. When Gopal sought the protection of the police, the Sub-Inspector said, "I am not oppressing your wife, why then have you come to me?" This has been proved by the evidence of Gopal, his son, and his wife. The Deputy Magistrate of Madhipura, who tried the case, also believed the case to be true, and sentenced Syam Sundar and Syam chaukidar to six months' rigorous imprisonment each. But though the conduct of the Kisoriganj police was severely criticised by the Court they were discharged. There was no attempt to enquire whether the Sub-Inspector was really guilty. We draw the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor and the police authorities to this case.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

18. A correspondent of the same paper writes as follows:—

A suspicious death in Bally, dis-  
trict Howrah.

The other day we saw the dead body of a woman, aged about 30, lying on her face in front of the Bally post-office, district Howrah. The body was besmeared with ashes and was naked. It seemed that some *badmashes* had placed the body there on the previous night. The woman was apparently healthy, and there were no marks of violence on her body. The police appeared the next morning, and, without due enquiry, ordered the body to be cremated.

Forgeries, murders, dacoities and other serious offences in this district are not being traced.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 11th, 1900.

19. A correspondent complains in the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th

Ravages of tigers in Tangail, dis-  
trict Mymensingh.

January that 18 or 19 persons have been killed and six or seven persons mauled by tigers between October and November last in the Jadabpur Deobari



Hills, in the Tangail Subdivision of the Mymensingh district. So many as five persons were killed in one day, the 4th December last. It is not known whether the Tangail police have any knowledge of the fact. It is strange that the authorities have no knowledge of the deaths which have occurred and are frequently occurring in a place only 15 miles from the Sub-Divisional headquarters.

20. A correspondent writes in the *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 13th January that many of the Hindu residents of village Naydia, within the jurisdiction of the Kumarkhali police-station, district Nadia, have left that village, and many of them intend leaving it on account of the oppressions which are committed upon them by one Achha Hak Mian of that village.

HITAKARI,  
Jan. 13th, 1900.

A *badmash* in a village in the Nadia district.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

21. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 9th January complains that the practice sanctioned by the High Court of putting up a list of all the properties to be sold by public auction in execution of decrees in the Munsifs' and Sub-Judges' Courts at a prominent place in the Court-house has been discontinued in Mymensingh. We cannot say whether the practice has been discontinued, because it interferes with the illicit earnings of some of the *amla*. But the public are greatly inconvenienced on this account.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Jan. 9th, 1900.

Discontinuance of the publication of sale lists in the Mymensingh Courts.

22. A correspondent writes the following in the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th January with reference to the grievances of assessors in the Bogra District:—

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 11th, 1900.

Assessors in Sessions Courts.

Bogra is not a sessions district, and the Sessions Judge of Pabna comes there every three months to try sessions cases. Before his arrival notice is served on some 40 or 50 assessors to present themselves on a certain day at the Court of Sessions. Being afraid of being fined for non attendance, nearly all the assessors present themselves on that day. Only two of them are selected to serve as assessors, in the first case on the list, and the rest are ordered to be present in Court two or three days after. When they again come on the appointed day, two are selected from among them to serve as assessors in the second case, and so on until the last case on the list is disposed of. It is needless to say that the assessors are put to great expense in coming from the mufassal and putting up in the town. Their duty, however, consists in saying, in reply to the Judge, whether the accused is guilty or not. We do not see the necessity of summoning mufassal gentlemen, as so many accused people in a criminal case, and giving them all this trouble when they have nothing to do but remain sitting as puppets.

We suggest the following modifications in the existing rules regarding the appointment of assessors:—

(1). There are many permanent residents in the towns, such as muharrihs of pleaders and mukhtars, teachers medical practitioners and others, who will fulfil the conditions required in the case of an assessor. If assessors are chosen from among such men, they will have to suffer no inconvenience like people brought from the mufassal.

(2). Those who have now to serve as assessors are all middle class or poor men, and therefore the Government ought to partially bear the expenses incurred by them while serving as assessors.

(3). At present all assessors have to attend Court on one and the same day. This practice should be altered.

23. The *Pratirasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th January has the following:—

Mr. Foster, Joint Magistrate of Jalpaiguri.

Mr. Foster, Joint Magistrate of Jalpaiguri, has sent more than 25 persons to jail for bad livelihood under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, though he is not empowered to try offences under that section. Hatkura Hari and Gogla Nasya fell ill in *hajet*. But Mr. Foster took down evidence against them in Court in their absence and went to the *hajet* to pronounce sentence against them. The contemptuous disregard which Mr. Foster has shown for law and justice is really unpardonable. The Barh whipping case, in which Mr. Foster figured so conspicuously, led the Government to transfer him to a

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Jan. 15th, 1900.



sadar station, and also to order that he should not be put in charge of any responsible duty. Why, then, did the Magistrate and the police send the accused in the above case for trial before him? Some of these convicted persons appealed against his order to the Deputy Commissioner, but their appeals have been dismissed. One of these men has made an appeal from jail to the District Judge. We hope that the District Judge will not only do justice to this man, but will also release those who are rotting in jail under Mr. Foster's illegal order. If the District Judge has no such power, he ought to move the Local Government to release these unhappy men. When the Government transferred Mr. Foster from Barh, it ordered that he should not be put in charge of any responsible duty. But we see that Mr. Foster remains in charge of the district whenever the Deputy Commissioner goes on tour. Is not this quite contrary to the orders of Government? Should an officer whom the Government did not think fit to be placed in charge of a subdivision be entrusted with the charge of a district?

(d)—Education.

NAVA YUG,  
Jan. 11th, 1900.

24. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 11th January has the following:—

The last election of Fellows in the Calcutta University.

The two Fellows elected this year are both lawyers and have no connection with education. The object for which fellows are appointed by the Calcutta University can only be served by electing or appointing able and experienced men to the Senate. One of the newly elected Fellows, Babu Jyoti Prasad Sarvadhikari, got his M. A. degree only a few years ago, and we do not know how long he was connected with the Education Department after completing his college career. The electors have ignored the claims of even those who are fit to be Babu Jyoti Prasad's Professors, in order to elect him. Babu Uma Charan Bandopadhyay, Principal of the Burdwan Raj College, and formerly a Professor in the Ripon College, Calcutta, and well-known in educational circles, was also a candidate for the Fellowship. But it is a matter of regret that the graduates who have the privilege of voting elected Babu Jyoti Prasad, ignoring the claim of such an able and experienced man as Uma Charan Babu.

It is strange that both the elected Fellows this year are lawyers. We do not know whether the electors could not find equally qualified men in the Education Department. We do not mean to say that it is improper to elect Fellows from among the lawyers, or that there are no fit persons among them to be elected as Fellows. At the present moment many of the Fellows of the Calcutta University, such as Babus Kali Charan Bandopadhyay, Nagendro Nath Ghosh, Krishna Kamal Bhattacharyya, and others, are of the lawyer class. But they never severed their connection with education, and some of them are still Professors of some of the colleges in Calcutta.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 11th, 1900.

25. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th January has the following:—

Government schools and colleges and the Transvaal War Fund.

We have come to know from a trustworthy source that the teachers and students of the Government schools and colleges have been requested to subscribe to the Transvaal War Fund. Of course there can be no two opinions about the propriety of helping the distressed; but if the authorities specially request any one to do so, then it becomes a matter of obligation. In these hard times, when it has become difficult for many in this country to earn sufficient money to keep body and soul together, it will be unbearable, if a new tax or subscription is imposed upon them.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Jan. 12th, 1900.

26. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 12th January writes as follows:—

Mr. Reuther's transfer.

Mr. Reuther was the School Inspector of the Dacca Circle. Seeing that the Musalmans were more numerous than the Hindus in East Bengal, he resolved to try his best to promote Musalman education. This offended the Hindus, and the Hindu newspapers at once raised a hue and cry against him. They preferred a long catalogue of charges against him—charges which we lost no opportunity to refute. It is a great surprise to us that Mr. Reuther has been transferred from the Dacca to the Orissa Circle. The Government is trying its best to promote the cause of



Musalman education, and it is a great regret that Mr. Pedler, the Director of Public Instruction, should deal a deathblow to this cause by transferring Inspecting Officers desirous of promoting Musalman education. Mr. Reuther was trying his best to give effect to Mr. Pedler's scheme of vernacular education, and was sincerely desirous of promoting education among the uneducated Musalmans of the *chaks* in the Dacca district. With this view he called upon the Hindu Inspectors to explain the cause of the unsatisfactory progress in Musalman education, and he censured them because they failed to give a satisfactory explanation. Mr. Reuther's transfer will prove highly injurious to the cause of Musalman education in East Bengal. It has certainly caused dissatisfaction to the Musalman public.

27. The same paper has the following:—

Musalman female education.

A system of female education, which does not go against the Musalman religion and society and does not interfere with the sanctity of the *zanana*, and is at the same time calculated to make Musalman women good, pious and laborious, has our hearty support. But we are strongly opposed to a system of female education, which is cast in the Western mould—a system, that is, which has been followed by a weakening of the *zanana* system among the enlightened and English-educated Hindus. The evils of such a pernicious system of education have already manifested themselves in Hindu society. No respectable and true Musalman will entrust the education of his daughter to an inexperienced tutor who is a perfect stranger to him, or even to a female teacher keeping a school at a distance from his house. We are not against female education, but we support only that system of female education which was formulated by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, and which the authorities of the Calcutta Musalman girls' school proposed to adopt when that school was founded. According to Sir Syed Ahmed's scheme a town is to be divided into wards, and in each ward a girls' school is to be opened in the house of a respectable Musalman of good moral character. The Musalmans of the locality will then have no hesitation in sending their daughters to the school, which should be placed under the tuition of an educated mistress of good moral character. Care should also be taken in selecting only good and able teachers. The girls should not be taught on the lines of the schools and colleges. They do not want what is called high English education. In our opinion, no English education need be imparted to Musalman girls. All that they need read or learn is the Koran, Urdu and Bengali literature, arithmetic, the outlines of geography and the history of India, hygiene and lessons on the nursing of children. Needlework and cooking should also form subjects of the school curriculum, and different teachers should be appointed for the teaching of different subjects.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Jan. 12th, 1900.

28. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th January writes as follows:—

The Conference of Inspectors.

In his educational resolution, Lord Curzon has advised all Local Governments to pay greater attention to theoretical than to practical education. But it will be doing more harm than good if practical education is imparted on strictly European lines. In India no system of education is likely to bear fruit which does not take caste and religious distinctions into consideration. A Conference of Inspectors is going to be held to consider Lord Curzon's recommendations. Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukharji Bahadur is a veteran educationist, and though he has retired from the service he is still willing to offer his services to the Government, whenever necessary. If educationists like him and Babu Abinash Chandra Chatterji, Inspector of the Dacca Circle, are allowed to take part in the deliberations of the Conference, the Director of Public Instruction will be materially helped in arriving at a right decision.

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Jan. 13th, 1900.

29. The same paper has the following:—

An advertisement in the *Education Gazette*.

The advertisements published in the *Education Gazette* give one a fair idea of the condition of the Indian people. In a recent issue of that paper, an English-knowing teacher is wanted for a primary school on Rs. 4 a month and free lodging and boarding. In Calcutta a domestic servant cannot be had on these terms. We have to pay our servant a clothing allowance over and above Rs. 4 a month and free lodging and boarding. An English-knowing teacher is therefore cheaper than a domestic servant. Formerly the pay of a domestic

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servant was proverbially fixed at Rs. 3-8 per month over and above a daily allowance for oil and fuel. The teacher wanted will get half a rupee more—most probably for his knowledge of English. But, thanks to the spread of English education, an English-knowing teacher will be had on the terms advertised, while a domestic servant is not always available on more liberal terms.

DACCA PRAKASH  
Jan. 14th, 1900.

30. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 14th January complains that Mr. Reuther, late Inspector of schools, Dacca Circle, has enhanced the fee required to be paid with an application for the marks scored by a candidate for a vernacular examination, as well as the fee required to be paid for the re-examination of an answer paper. The fee for both the purposes was four annas when the late Babu Dinanath Sen was the Inspector. Mr. Reuther has enhanced the fee for the supply of marks to Re. 1, and that for the re-examination of an answer paper to Rs. 3. This is causing great hardship to plucked candidates, and has practically put a stop to the re-examination of answer papers, which formerly often resulted in passing an unsuccessful candidate.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 10th, 1900.

31. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 10th January says that malaria is raging furiously in the villages within the jurisdiction of the Bhagabangola police station, in the Murshidabad district. As there are no qualified medical practitioners in those villages, the villagers will be greatly benefited if a charitable dispensary is opened at Bhagabangola. The Government has sent a doctor temporarily to the place, but some permanent arrangement ought to be made to appoint a whole-time man. We hear that quinine worth Rs. 400 is annually sold in the local post-office. This shows how sadly the place feels the want of a charitable dispensary.

NAVA YUG,  
Jan. 11th, 1900.

32. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 11th January has the following:—  
From the beginning of the winter season large quantities of fish are imported into the Calcutta bazars every day, and the whole of the day's import is not sold off during the day. The fish sellers keep the surplus fish steeped in ice and sell it as fresh fish. We do not know whether the Municipal Food Inspectors have any knowledge of the matter. Most of the fish imported by rail come in a state of decomposition and the fish-sellers sell them as fresh fish by colouring them red. We know that the sellers of such fish are punishable under the Municipal law, and we therefore attract the attention of the Municipal authorities to this fact.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 12th, 1900.

33. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th January writes as follows:—  
The new Calcutta Municipal Act has not yet come into force, and the old law, with the shadow of Self-Government, is still guiding the Municipality. The Chairman cannot, therefore, take leave without the sanction of the Commissioners. Mr. Bright, the present Chairman, is going to take leave. Mr. Apar proposed that Babu Nilambar should be appointed to officiate for him. But Mr. Oldham said that Mr. Bright's leave and Mr. Duke's appointment in his place had already been gazetted. This shows how Local Self-Government is being honoured in the administration of the Municipal affairs of Calcutta. What was the use of going through the farce of applying for the sanction of the Commissioners, when the Government had already made arrangements without waiting for such sanction? This is the state of things before the new law has come into force. What will be the state of things when the new law will come into force?

HITAKARI,  
Jan. 13th, 1900.

34. A correspondent writes in the *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 13th January that there is a tank on one side of the public road at Kunjatola, within the jurisdiction of the Kumarkhali police-station, district Nadia, and there is a cremation ground very close to this tank; men coming to cremate bodies often throw half-burnt bodies into this tank. Within the last two or three months nearly 250 bodies were in this way thrown into this tank. The tank



abounds in fish, and the other day a man going to the tank to catch fish had his feet stuck into a dead body. The dead bodies in this way rotting in the tank will tell seriously on the health of the villagers, and fishermen selling the fish of this tank will help to spread infectious diseases throughout the country.

35. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 15th January has the following :—

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

Roads, &c., in Chandpur, district Tippera.

In every district new roads are constructed for facility of communications, but Chandpur, in the Tippera district, has been unfortunate in this respect. There is no other good road, except the one constructed long ago by the orders of Sir Charles Elliott, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Some time ago the District Board of Tippera intended to make straight the Baghra-Faridganj Road, but it has given up the intention, considering the expense its carrying out would require as unnecessary. But may we ask whether the money, which the Board intended to spend on the project, was ever expended in any other way for the good of the Chandpur people?

The residents of Chandpur also suffer greatly from water-scarcity in summer, having to depend for their drinking water on the Dakatia river, which flows through the place. The river has now become so shallow that its water is not fit to be drunk in summer. The tanks and other small reservoirs of water, too, nearly dry up during that season. How much has the District Board spent to remove the water scarcity of the residents of Chandpur?

Cholera, too, breaks out in an epidemic form in Chandpur every March. This is no wonder, considering the impurity of the water which the people drink in that season. Nor are there qualified medical practitioners in the place or its neighbourhood. Is not the District Board aware of this miserable condition of the people of Chandpur?

Last year the present Chairman of the District Board came on tour to Chandpur and expressed a wish to open a middle vernacular school and a charitable dispensary at Faridganj. But there are no signs yet of his wish being carried out.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

36. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 15th January writes as follows :—

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

The Punjab money-lender.

Government officers in the Punjab are of opinion that the money-lender does not benefit the raiyat in any way. In fact, he is looked upon as the cause of the poverty of the raiyats, who are said to be sucked by them as by leeches. Acting under this impression, the Courts often refuse to decree suits instituted by money-lenders, and in most cases their claims are not decreed in full. The Courts also call for accounts twenty years old. All this has made money-lending an unprofitable business. But the raiyats cannot do without money-lenders, and the money-lenders now advance money on the mortgage of lands, not with the object of occupying them, but in order to have some security for the money lent.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

37. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 8th January has the following :—

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
Jan. 8th, 1900.

The Assam-Bengal Railway.

We hear that the railway authorities have sanctioned the proposal to construct an overbridge at the Aukhara station on the Assam-Bengal railway, but we do not know why this proposal has not yet been carried into effect. The construction of an overbridge at this station has become absolutely necessary. The passengers to the station have to cross the railway line, which is always blocked with carriages, and this causes great inconvenience to them. The railway rules forbid the crossing of the line, but passengers are obliged to violate those rules. There is no waiting-room in the station, and passengers have to wait in an open place. The station is frequently not lighted.

There are also no waiting rooms or godowns at the Mogra station on the same railway.

There are no sheds on the platform of the Laksham Junction station, and passengers have to suffer great inconvenience on that account.



HITAVADI,  
Jan. 12th, 1900.

38. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th January complains of the conduct of some Eurasian ticket-collectors at the Sealdah station. A Eurasian luggage inspector of that station is alleged to have ill-treated an employé belonging to the office of the *Khulna* newspaper. This gentleman and his friend had second-class tickets for Khulna, and they had with them seven reams of paper, weighing 1 maund and 16 seers. The gentlemen were entitled to carry 1 maund and 20 seers of luggage free of charge, but the luggage inspector did not allow them to carry the reams of paper, had their luggage weighed and charged the gentlemen Rs. 2-8 for the same, although the luggage clerk was for charging only Rs. 1-8. It was through the delay caused by the conduct of the luggage inspector that the gentlemen missed the train. The gentlemen brought the matter to the notice of the station-master, and he requested them to submit an application, but it is not known whether any application was submitted.

Here is another instance. Sunday last, a gentleman arrived at the Sealdah station by the 11 P.M. train. He had a ticket for Dum-Dum, but failed to alight at that station. At Sealdah extra fare and the usual fine were demanded from him; but as he had no money with him he failed to comply with the demand, and kept his wrapper in the custody of the ticket-collector. From the station he went to his brother, and they both came back to the station to pay the fare and fine and get back the wrapper. But the wrapper was not returned, and the Eurasian ticket-collector and some other ticket-collectors beat the gentleman. The matter was brought to the notice of the station-master, but he did nothing to help them, and, on the contrary, ordered them to leave the platform.

(h) — General.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Jan. 10th, 1900.

39. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th January has the following:—  
We hear that there are some vacancies in the office of the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal. It will be proper to fill up the vacancies from among those who have been serving in the office for a long time. It will be doing injustice to them and wounding their feelings if these vacancies are filled up by outsiders. We fail to understand why those who have so long served in the office with credit should now be considered incompetent.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Jan. 12th, 1900.

40. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 12th January writes that the Government ought to have conferred the title of Khan Bahadur instead of Khan Saheb on Dr. Zahiruddin Ahmed. Dr. Zahiruddin is a bright ornament of the Musalman community. Considering his influence in both the Hindu and Musalman communities of Calcutta, it is no exaggeration to say that the honour which has been conferred on him is no great honour.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

41. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th January hopes that Sir John Woodburn will take into his special consideration the petition submitted by the Mahant of Budh Gaya against the proposal made by the local authorities to construct a latrine close to the temple.

HABLUL MATEEN,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

42. The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 15th January does not understand why the plague authorities are saying that there is still plague in Calcutta. The plague never broke out in this town, and at present there is no plague in Calcutta. It is simply for the pecuniary benefit of the plague officers that the plague is said to exist still in Calcutta.

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

43. Referring to the Munda rising in the Chota Nagpur Division, the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th January writes as follows:—

The Sonthals were driven to rebellion by the oppression of the police and the *mahajans*, and now the Mundas have rebelled owing to their oppression by the zamindars and the police. During the Sonthal rebellion the high officials of Government were indifferent, and now the local authorities of the Sonthal Parganas are helping the zamindars in committing oppression on the Mundas.



We are glad that our kind-hearted Lieutenant-Governor is making a law with a view of removing the grievances of the Mundas. We do not know how far the law will benefit those illiterate people, but it is certain that it will, at least, prevent oppressions to some extent. It is true that the Mundas have not done well in creating a disturbance, but the Government, too, has not done well in not removing the oppressions which are committed upon them. We pray to Government to take mild measures in suppressing this rebellion, instead of adopting such cruel steps as burning villages and destroying life and property. The local authorities are surely angry with the Mundas for this rebellion. We request Sir John Woodburn to stay at Ranchi for a few days at this critical time. We are really afraid to think of the fate of these unfortunate Mundas.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

44. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 15th January writes as follows:—

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

The proposed amendment of the Punjab land law.

Will the law which Government is about to pass in order to prevent the raiyats from falling a prey to the money-lender prove really beneficial to them? There is no doubt that the Government is very kind to the poor raiyats, and by this law their lands will not fall into the hands of the money-lenders. But would the Government help them, whenever they may want such help, with money for buying ploughs, cattle, and seed; with money to pay the land revenue; with money for defraying marriage expenses? If the Government can advance money to them at a lower rate of interest than the money-lender, the law will no doubt prove beneficial to them. But the Government will not do this, and the only effect of the proposed measure will be to estrange the relations between the money-lenders and the raiyats.

### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

45. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th January writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 12th, 1900.

The Famine Resolution of the Government of India.

That the famine is gradually assuming a serious aspect cannot be gainsaid. Lord Curzon has visited most of the famine centres, and it may be that in some places he has come across very high rates of remuneration paid to labourers on relief works. He ought, however, to have mentioned this in his Resolution.

The Famine Commissioners calculated that even in the year of the acutest famine not more than 15 per cent. would apply for relief. This year, however, the number of the recipients of famine relief exceeds the calculations of the Famine Commissioners. We do not know whether this fact alone has led the Government to propose restrictions on the granting of famine relief. But if this is the only cause of the contemplated restrictions, we cannot praise the wisdom of the Government.

There has been an outbreak of famine this year before the people had recovered from the effects of the famine of 1897. We had never before heard of two such severe famines taking place within such a short time. It is not, therefore, at all strange or unnatural that the calculations of the Famine Commissioners should be exceeded this year. The Famine Commissioners' deliberations were confined to their experience, and they had then no idea that one famine could follow so close upon another. If they had had any such idea, if they could have imagined that the distress of the people could reach such an acute stage, they would have certainly arrived at a different conclusion with regard to the *percentage* of applicants for famine relief.

In the present Famine Resolution of the Government of India, the Government advises the famine officers to help only the utterly destitute. The effect of this advice will be to render those in distress who possess a little property utterly destitute in the strictest sense of the term. The famine over, they will not have the wherewithal to carry on their occupations.

46. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th January writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,  
Jan. 13th, 1900.

Lord Curzon's famine policy.

Lord Curzon was no doubt actuated by a good motive in advising the famine relief authorities to be a little more strict and scrutinising in granting relief. But we fear that



the consequences of the resolution will be far from desirable. No one who has not been reduced to utter destitution or who can find employment elsewhere, will be willing to serve on relief works for six pice or two annas a day. Some of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries also fear that the Viceroy's resolution will lead to undesirable consequences. In their opinion, the famine of this year is much more acute than the last famine, and this is why there is such a great rush for relief. The Viceroy has promised that no one will be allowed to die from starvation. Let not the famine relief authorities interpret Lord Curzon's resolution in such a way as may go against the Viceroy's promise.

**BNARAT MITRA,**  
Jan. 15th, 1900.

47. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 15th January says that the year of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was a year of such a great famine in India that the people could

not even express their joy at the celebration of the Jubilee. In fact, the famine, the plague, and the frontier war have totally exhausted the resources of India. But it is a regret that the Government is not inclined to admit that India is growing poorer day by day. People are really dying from starvation, but the Government does not take notice of it, because the Anglo-Indian community do not keep it informed of the misery of the Indian masses. According to the *Pioneer*, India is becoming richer day by day. The late Mr. Beck, Principal of the Aligarh Muhammadan College, tried to prove India rich, but sorry to say he died, otherwise he could have seen with his own eyes how India is falling into the depths of poverty. The *Englishman* says that the cause of famine in India is the rapid increase of her population, and that the practice of child-marriage in India is the cause of this increase of population. It was hoped that Lord Curzon would do something against famine, but the Anglo-Indians, perhaps, will not allow him to do so.

**SAMIRAN,**  
Jan. 17th, 1900.

48. The *Samiran* [Calcutta] of the 17th January has the following:—

The famine in India.

Help us! Oh help us in this crisis! Famine has broken out in the Punjab, in Bombay, in the North-Western and Central Provinces—in fact, over a large and extensive area. Hungry people are selling off all their belongings. Starvation has reduced not a few to skeletons, and all are perplexed and panic-stricken with hunger. Lord Curzon, save the starving and the hungry in this crisis; be liberal, like a king, in giving them food. Hunger has made many bid farewell to affection and conscience, and they are forsaking their children, who were once dear and near to their hearts. Where are those village families who were satisfied with a little, with only two meals a day? Hunger has made the healthy and the able-bodied in the villages forsake their homes, leaving the hungry, starving and dying skeletons to their fate. What was once a happy home is now a scene of desolation. The distress prevailing in the Punjab is acute in the extreme. In Shapur a hungry, skeleton-like woman was found picking the few grains of gram escaping from the mouth of a horse and hungrily eating them. In this attempt to satisfy her hunger, the poor woman was unfortunately kicked to death and relieved from all misery and distress. What a picture of destitution? O Lord Curzon, representative of our kind-hearted Queen, do save the people in this crisis!

The recent Famine Resolution of Lord Curzon has led us to fear that many will have to die from starvation as a consequence of it. If the relief officers be strictly scrutinising in granting relief many will have to die. In selecting the utterly destitute, the authorities will compel many to be reduced to utter destitution, and to arrive at a stage when relief will be too late for them. The best famine relief policy is not to scrutinise whether an applicant for relief is utterly destitute, but to search out the distressed and the destitute, and bring relief to the doors of those who are too helpless to go out and apply for it. It is better that many who do not deserve relief will get it, than that a single deserving applicant be refused relief and die from starvation. We have another prayer to make to the Viceroy. There are hundreds of poor people in this country who prefer starvation to the indignity of publicly begging for relief. The Government has always made arrangements for bringing relief to their doors. In Lord Curzon's Famine Resolution, however, there is nothing to indicate that these people will be taken care of by the Government.



## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

49. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 9th January has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 9th, 1900.

Civilisation and war.

There has always been and there will always be war in the world. But there must be some defect in that civilisation which cannot reduce or minimise the chances of war. Fight, if it is necessary to fight, for the defence of civilisation against the attacks of the uncivilised. There may be some necessity for such fighting; but why should the civilised fight with the civilised? Within the last few years we have witnessed some wars, but none of them was fought for the purpose of defending civilisation against the attacks of the uncivilised. In all these wars we have found civilised nations maliciously fighting with civilised nations simply to prove the superiority of their strength. In the Græco-Turkish war or in the war between America and Spain, the contending parties were civilised. Why is this so? Why so many wars within so short a time? If it is the object of civilisation to remove human misery and to teach men how to subdue the passions, then we must say that western civilisation is still far from realising that object. Competition is the law of Nature, and if it is the object of civilisation to deprive it of its keenness, then we must say that western civilisation has not been successful like Hindu civilisation in carrying out that object. Western civilisation has certainly failed to nourish the godly qualities of kindness and forbearance. In the opinion of the *Times*, the British Government has entered upon this war, not to extend the sphere of British supremacy in South Africa, but to maintain British prestige—to prove that the English are still invincible in war. So thousands of people are being killed on the British as well as on the Boer side simply for the maintenance of British prestige. How can we then say that western civilisation has ennobled the human heart? There can be civilisation without railroads and steam vessels, telegraph with or without wire, Maxim and Krupp guns, lyddite and dynamite, powder and smokeless powder. The growth of civilisation is not to be measured by the size or the velocity of cannon balls. To drive an engine or work a machine is not the highest evidence of civilisation. There is a subtler machinery in the human heart, in the proper working of which consists true civilisation. The cry of the distressed moves our heart more powerfully than the sound of a machine in motion. The tears of a widow tell upon us with far greater effect than a ball from a Maxim gun. The cry of an orphan is to us of greater value than a victory in war. The destruction of one nation does not increase the prestige of another. If destruction is the end of western civilisation, let us bid good-bye to it from a safe distance.

50. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th January has the following:—

SRI SRI VISHNU  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Jan. 10th, 1900.

Why are Indians wanting in self-help?

A paternal system of Government and a centralisation policy like those which prevail in this country cannot but make the people hanker for service and dependent on the State for an improvement of their condition. We are real beggars, and occupy a most inferior position in the scale of nations. We have really no place in the world of action, and have become the basest of the base. It is to this want of self-help and self-reliance that we owe the loss of our wealth, our honour, our self-respect, our everything. Skeletons of humanity as we are, we are passing our days like ghosts in the cremation ground with the greatest difficulty and in the most disreputable manner. In the matter of our food and dress, whether we lie down or move about, in fact in every act of our life, we look up to others for help and guidance. We now stand precisely in the position of the tiny, thirsty bird which in its agony expectantly looks up to the sky for a drop of water, and of the hungry beggar who, though beaten and expelled, will not yet leave the wealthy man's door. This is no figurative language that we use. Such is really our present condition. As a matter of fact, Government cannot any longer grant us admission to the famine relief works. But what can we do? We have no other way left to us. We are in so great a want of food and drink that, beaten and turned out though we be, we must resort to the relief works.

Whatever be the cause of the present distress and degradation of the country, and whoever the party responsible for bringing it about, there can be



no doubt that it will destroy the last trace of self-respect among the people. They have not yet completely lost that noble quality, for many instances are being still noticed of families preferring starvation to seeking State charity. Time was when the people of India were well acquainted with the value of self-help and self-reliance and practised those virtues. It was an Indian poet, Bharabi, who wrote that the lion would rather die of hunger than appease it by eating animals killed by others, and that a great man does not seek or desire the aid of other people, but attains eminence by his own unaided efforts. But those days are gone. We now require a Buckle to teach us that a paternal system of government is bad. We now read Burke in our colleges, and learn from that great statesman that "Power and eminence and consideration are things not to be begged. They must be commanded, and they who supplicate for mercy from others can never hope for justice to themselves."

These observations are perfectly true. We now learn these valuable maxims of self-help and self-reliance in Government schools and colleges. The Viceroy and the Lieutenant Governor are inculcating on us these lessons in their public speeches at public meetings. But it seems that we cannot in our lives give effect to this instruction. Who is responsible for this? Of course, we ourselves. But a little reflection will show that we may not, after all, be wholly to blame for it. It would be as reasonable and proper to ask a man to run, after tying his legs with a chain, as it would be to now exhort us to practise self-reliance. When we find the Government, which, after training the people in the work of self-government for such a long time, could deprive them of their self-governing powers, exhorting us in public meetings to learn and practise self-help, it strikes us that the exhortation may not probably be the outcome of parental affection—the words of a paternal ruler desiring our welfare. Do we now possess any powers which may enable us to practice self-help and self-reliance? Trade and commerce are in your hands, food and dress are in your hands, laws and regulations are in your hands, instruction and education are in your hands, even the duty of protecting us is entrusted in your hands. How can a people who are not even permitted to keep weapons for defending themselves against mad jackals practise self-reliance? "Begging by no means," of that we are perfectly aware, but what are we now to do? Help us to stand up, and see if we can not stand on our own legs in this world. What policy is this that while you keep us groaning under the burden of heavy and unbearable taxation and the pressure of rigorous laws and regulations, you yet say, "Help yourselves and Government will help you."

#### URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Dec. 20th, 1899.

51. Referring to a recent ruling of the Madras High Court that no Hindu is legally bound to maintain a concubine, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 20th December observes that the ruling is hard, and, as such, throws a large number of women into a defenceless state.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.

52. The same paper complains that the results of pass examination in Orissa are not yet out, and hopes that the educational authorities will ask the examiners to bring them out soon.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.

53. The same paper advises the Civil Court authorities to use polite expressions, such *apani* in the place of *tumi* in their summonses or notices, addressed to men of position in society, and in support of his opinion states the case of a Deputy Magistrate, who was offended by the use of the word *tumi* in a notice, addressed to him by the Munsif of Munshiganj.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Dec. 27th, 1899.

54. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 27th December is of opinion that the assessment in the Cuttack and Puri municipalities is not fair, inasmuch as the poor are overtaxed and the rich are under-taxed. The writer suggests that in future it would be convenient to appoint an independent assessor, having no connection with the municipalities.



55. The same paper is glad to learn that, in view of scarcity of food in his estate, the Raja of Bamra has remitted revenue to the extent of Rs. 25,000, has sanctioned Rs. 10,000 for relief works, and has made arrangements for the storage of a large quantity of paddy, which will be of great use to the poor in time of need. The writer advises the Rajas of Orissa to follow the example of the Raja of Bamra.

URUJA AND  
NAVABAHAD,  
Dec. 27th, 1899.

56. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 6th January is of opinion that the release of the Natu brothers by the Government of Bombay has produced a good effect on the mind of the native community, and that this generous, though tardy, act of reparation will distinguish the closing period of Lord Sandhurst's Government, which would otherwise have been passed over unnoticed.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Jan. 6th, 1900.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 20th January, 1900.*



